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Letter from Adeline Manning, to Anne Whitney, 1872 March

Adeline Manning

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12th per of March. take it for me, & that
be the only way to secure it. The 15th
would probably be early enough for me.
I always say the first week in March;
but can easily see that I am not likely
to get away before the 10th or 12th. Hence
the first week is my aim.

Now about the Suffrage. My beloved -
Living here in N. Y. & Brooklyn, I hold ad-
vanced opinions to be quite out of place. I
would rather women should wait a cen-
tury, or certainly a generation, before ask-
ing for the Suffrage, rather than that it should
be extended one jot before it is restricted.
If there is any state in the Union, sufficiently
independent of foreigners, to be able to
restrict its vote in future, to home born
Citizens, & it does so before it - ^[13] too late,
there may be some hope for the repub-
lic. When such an order is fairly established,
I shall with all my heart desire female
Suffrage, on the same terms. Now, good
heavens! there would be the same old

Between good & bad that there is now, only
the whole business being so much bigger, would
be more unweildy, & inscrutable, & so give
the bad preatue & the good less chance.
No, I do not believe the moral effect of
this act of pure justice, would begin to
counterbalance the practical difficulties
that would arise simply from this great
multiplication of the vote. And for ~~any~~
greater wisdom & morality that the women
are going to exercise, I believe not in the
future; women take them all together are
not one whit better than men taken all
together, & until they find it out they
are not likely to be as good. They might
vote better on a few subjects than men
but in the great majority of cases, it
will be a long while before even the best
of them bring half the wisdom that men
men do to the vote; & more ^{besides} than this, at
present, I believe that many good &
otherwise intelligent women, would not
vote, owing to prejudice would not vote,
while the whole body of corruptible wo-
men would be used by the worst par-

day - I wish women would turn their interests
in public affairs into a broader channel,
I think there is work they might do that would
lead just as surely, & a great deal more
safely, ^{though} not as quickly to the ballot as
that they are doing. What? Well my
lecture is closed - Can't tell you today -

I wonder whether your papers tell you what
a state society is in New; that Gentle man
can't venture out after dark without a
fear of highwaymen, brigands. Father
carries a heavy cane, & Henry carries a
pistol. Saturday eve. at 7 1/2 p.m. a Gentle
man was attacked by two ruffians at the
next corner to us, his pistol saved him
his watch - Another a while ago was run
down before his own door on this Avenue.
Other cases of robbery, or attempted robbery
have occurred within a few blocks, &
within a mile many. They say the
gangs turned out of civil offices in
New York are thronging to Brooklyn.
It would be some consolation, to be
sure that New York was better,

for our affliction; but I fear they are
hardly missed there. Talk of danger
in Rome! We are as far from being
prepared for female suffrage as the
Hottentots; probably we only need time
to resolve this Chaos in to Nebula, or
protoplasm - which ever is behind.
Science helps us, God forsaken!
Yes, love, the soon - & if there is a better
one to be had the 1st of April than
the 1st of March why I can wait
till then - Are you well now, my
own?

Did you get a letter on Tuesday?
My love to Sarah, & all inquiring
friends.

W. / 72
Brooklyn -